

CLAIMS

- 1 1. Apparatus for managing and authorizing rights associated with compound
2 works that have other works with associated rights contained therein, the
3 apparatus comprising:
4 a work relation table that has a record that relates each work that is
5 contained in another work with that other work;
6 means responsive to a request for rights authorization to a desired
7 work for searching the work relation table to determine whether the
8 desired work is contained in another work; and
9 means responsive to a determination that the desired work is
10 contained in another work for determining whether rights are available for
11 the desired work.
- 1 2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the means for determining whether
2 rights are available for the desired work comprises means operable when
3 rights are not available for the desired work for determining whether
4 means are available for a work that contains the desired work.
- 1 3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the means for searching the work table
2 comprises means for searching the work relation table starting with a work
3 to determine whether the desired work is contained within that work.
- 1 4. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a works table that has a
2 record for each work.
- 1 5. The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the works table includes information
2 taken from the work content.
- 1 6. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the information taken from the work
2 content includes the title of the work.

- 1 7. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein a work is a photograph and the
2 information taken from the work content includes a coded image of the
3 photograph.
- 1 8. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising an order table containing a
2 record for each right authorization and denial.
- 1 9. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the order table contains information
2 identifying a party that placed an order.
- 1 10. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the order table contains the status of an
2 order.
- 1 11. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the means responsive to a request for
2 rights authorization for searching the work relation table comprises means
3 for determining whether the other work is contained in a third work and, if
4 so determining whether rights are available for that third work.
- 1 12. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the means responsive to a request for
2 rights authorization for searching the work relation table comprises means
3 for recursively searching the work relation table until a work is found for
4 which rights are available.
- 1 13. The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the means for recursively searching
2 the work relation table generates a right denial if no work is found for
3 which rights are available.
- 1 14. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a rights table that has a
2 record for each right and information relating that right to a work and a
3 right holder.

1 15. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the means responsive to a request for
2 rights authorization for searching the work relation table comprises means
3 responsive to the request for rights authorization for a work for searching
4 the rights table to determine if a right is available for the work before the
5 work relation table is searched.

1 16. Apparatus for managing and authorizing rights associated with compound
2 works that have other works with associated rights contained therein, the
3 apparatus comprising:

4 a work relation table that has a record that relates each work that is
5 contained in another work with that other work;

6 means responsive to a request for rights authorization to a desired
7 work for searching the work relation table to determine whether the
8 desired work is contained in another work;

9 means responsive to a determination that the desired work is
10 contained in another work for recursively searching the work relation table;
11 and

12 means for granting a right authorization if a work is found for which
13 rights are available and a right denial if no work is found for which rights
14 are available.

1 17. The apparatus of claim 16 further comprising an order table containing a
2 record for each right authorization and denial.

1 18. The apparatus of claim 17 wherein the order table contains information
2 identifying a party that placed an order.

1 19. The apparatus of claim 17 wherein the order table contains information
2 identifying the right that was ordered.

- 1 20. The apparatus of claim 17 wherein the order table contains the status of
2 an order.
- 1 21. The apparatus of claim 16 further comprising a party table identifying
2 rights holders, individuals, groups and organizations that have a
3 relationship to rights managed by the system.
- 1 22. A method for managing and authorizing rights associated with compound
2 works that have other works with associated rights contained therein, the
3 method comprising:
4 (a) providing a work relation table that has a record that relates each
5 work that is contained in another work with that other work;
6 (b) in response to a request for rights authorization to a desired work,
7 searching the work relation table to determine whether the desired
8 work is contained in another work; and
9 (c) in response to a determination that the desired work is contained in
10 another work, determining whether rights are available for the
11 desired work.
- 1 23. The method of claim 22 wherein step (c) comprises determining whether
2 means are available for a work that contains the desired work when rights
3 are not available for the desired work.
- 1 24. The method of claim 22 wherein step (b) comprises searching the work
2 relation table starting with a work to determine whether the desired work is
3 contained within that work.
- 1 25. The method of claim 22 further comprising:
2 (d) providing a works table that has a record for each work.

- 1 26. The method of claim 25 wherein step (d) comprises including information
2 taken from the work content in the works table.
- 1 27. The method of claim 26 wherein the information taken from the work
2 content includes the title of the work.
- 1 28. The method of claim 26 wherein a work is a photograph and the
2 information taken from the work content includes a coded image of the
3 photograph.
- 1 29. The method of claim 22 further comprising:
2 (d) providing an order table containing a record for each right
3 authorization and denial.
- 1 30. The method of claim 29 wherein the order table contains information
2 identifying a party that placed an order.
- 1 31. The method of claim 29 wherein the order table contains the status of an
2 order.
- 1 32. The method of claim 22 wherein step (b) comprises determining whether
2 the other work is contained in a third work and, if so determining whether
3 rights are available for that third work.
- 1 33. The method of claim 22 wherein step (b) comprises:
2 (b1) recursively searching the work relation table until a work is found
3 for which rights are available.
- 1 34. The method of claim 33 wherein step (b1) comprises generating a right
2 denial if no work is found for which rights are available.

1 35. The method of claim 22 further comprising:

2 (d) providing a rights table that has a record for each right and
3 information relating that right to a work and a right holder.

1 36. The method of claim 35 wherein step (b) comprises searching the rights
2 table to determine if a right is available for the work before the work
3 relation table is searched.

1 37. A method for managing and authorizing rights associated with compound
2 works that have other works with associated rights contained therein, the
3 method comprising:

4 (a) providing a work relation table that has a record that relates each
5 work that is contained in another work with that other work;

6 (b) in response to a request for rights authorization to a desired work,
7 searching the work relation table to determine whether the desired
8 work is contained in another work;

9 (c) in response to a determination that the desired work is contained in
10 another work, recursively searching the work relation table;

11 (d) granting a right authorization if a work is found for which rights are
12 available; and

13 (e) granting a right denial if no work is found for which rights are
14 available.

1 38. The method of claim 37 further comprising:

2 (f) providing an order table containing a record for each right
3 authorization and denial.

1 39. The method of claim 38 wherein the order table contains information
2 identifying a party that placed the order.

- 1 40. The method of claim 38 wherein the order table contains information
2 identifying the right that was ordered.
- 1 41. The method of claim 38 wherein the order table contains the status of an
2 order.
- 1 42. The method of claim 37 further comprising:
2 (f) providing a party table identifying rights holders, individuals, groups
3 and organizations that have a relationship to rights managed by the
4 system.
- 1 43. A computer program product for managing and authorizing rights
2 associated with compound works that have other works with associated
3 rights contained therein, the computer program product comprising a
4 computer usable medium having computer readable program code
5 thereon, including:
6 program code for creating a work relation table that has a record
7 that relates each work that is contained in another work with that other
8 work;
9 program code operable in response to a request for rights
10 authorization to a desired work for searching the work relation table to
11 determine whether the desired work is contained in another work; and
12 program code operable in response to a determination that the
13 desired work is contained in another work for determining whether rights
14 are available for that other work.
- 1 44. A computer program product for managing and authorizing rights
2 associated with compound works that have other works with associated
3 rights contained therein, the computer program product comprising a
4 computer usable medium having computer readable program code
5 thereon, including:

6 program code for creating a work relation table that has a record
7 that relates each work that is contained in another work with that other
8 work;
9 program code responsive to a request for rights authorization to a
10 desired work for searching the work relation table to determine whether
11 the desired work is contained in another work;
12 program code responsive to a determination that the desired work
13 is contained in another work for recursively searching the work relation
14 table; and
15 program code for granting a right authorization if a work is found for
16 which rights are available and a right denial if no work is found for which
17 rights are available.